

Santa Ana Unified School District
Valley High School
1801 S. Greenville
Santa Ana, CA 92706

SANTA ANA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Study Session
May 18, 2010

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by President Yamagata-Noji. Also in attendance were Mr. Hernández, Mr. Palacio and Mr. Reyna. Mr. Richardson arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Cabinet members present were Ms. Russo, Dr. Olsky, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Mendez, Mr. Ayala, Ms. Lohnes, and Mr. Dixon.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dr. Yamagata-Noji. She welcomed all in attendance to the special meeting and thanked Principal Swerdlow for having everyone at Valley High School.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Yamagata-Noji asked those members of the community who wished to address the Board to step forward.

There were no individuals wishing to speak.

PRESENTATION

HIGH SCHOOL INC. ACADEMIES AT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Superintendent Russo opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance to the Special Board Meeting.

Ms. Russo introduced the presentation and asked Dr. Cathie Olsky, Deputy Superintendent, to step up to the podium.

Dr. Olsky welcomed everyone and asked Richard Porras, President of High School Inc. Academies to come forward.

Mr. Porras welcomed everyone in attendance. He introduced all the Board of Directors. He referenced Section IV of the presentation notebook which summarizes the Board of Directors' role and responsibilities. Mr. Porras asked Jack Oakes, High School Inc., Board of Directors member, to step up to the podium to make the presentation. Mr. Oakes referenced the information in the binder. He called Mr. Dale Ward, Executive Director with the Greater Santa Ana Business Alliance to the podium. A short video was played summarizing four years of High School Inc. and the partnership with Santa Ana Unified School District. The High School Inc. Academies' goals are to maintain high academic and career technical standards; establish a link with the business community, assess the changing business market, recruit and retain high performing instructors and staff, develop student self-confidence and motivation, personalize the student educational experience, make the students masters of their own learning, establish expectations for each student and assess progress, create a research and development culture, offer college credits and workplace experiences, develop the technology school academy as a model, and establish an accountability system for post high school experience. A tour of the new facilities for the High School Inc. Academies followed.

Upon returning from the tour, Principal Felicity Swerdlow talked about the seven academies at Valley High School: Automotive, Transportation & Logistics;

Culinary Arts/Hospitality; Engineering & Construction; Global Business; Healthcare; Manufacturing; and New Media. A total of 1,054 students are currently enrolled in the program. Discussion ensued relative to the different classes offered.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Joe Dixon, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities/Governmental Relations, provided an update regarding facilities projects. He stated that in 2008 when Measure G passed a five-year plan was presented, but due to the State fiscal crisis the plan is changing. Recently the State of California has sold bonds for school facilities and will provide funding for five Overcrowding Relief Grant projects in the amount of approximately \$57 million if the district can certify that an executed contract is in place within 60 - 90 days. At the Board of Education on May 25, 2010, administration will be submitting agenda items for approval for three items: (1) filing the certification that the district will have executed contracts within 60 - 90 days; (2) asking to go out to bid for Century High, Santa Ana High, and Spurgeon Intermediate Schools and make it contingent on receiving state funds; and (3) request the appointment of construction management services for the ORG projects at Century High, Santa Ana High, and Spurgeon Intermediate Schools contingent on receiving state funds.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT UPDATE

Dr. Olsky, Deputy Superintendent, provided an update on the Federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) application for the six schools identified by the State as persistently low achieving. She stated that administration was in the process of writing one grant application for all six schools indicating the intervention model selected for each school. Administration will be submitting a request to submit the grant application at the Board meeting on May 25, 2010 as the application is due June 1, 2010. Following Board approval on May 25, 2010, schools will work to complete their plans for improvement throughout the summer to be ready for the opening of school.

RACE TO THE TOP

Dr. Olsky, Deputy Superintendent, provided a brief update on the Race To The Top (RTTT). The California Department of Education announced that they will be participating in Phase 2 of the federal RTTT. Dr. Olsky informed the Board that the major difference with this application was that it is being written by five school districts, Clovis Unified, Fresno Unified, Long Beach Unified, Los Angeles Unified, San Francisco Unified, and Sanger Unified. School districts wishing to submit a Memorandum of Understanding to participate with those school districts must do so by Friday, May 21, 2010. A consensus was given to proceed with the application. A ratification will be brought forward at the next Board meeting on May 25, 2010.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jane A. Russo
Secretary
Santa Ana Board of Education